

Thomas Jefferson to Charles Willson Peale, May 5, 1802, from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO CHARLES WILLSON PEALE J. MSS.

Washington, May 5, 1802.

Dear Sir, —I am this moment setting out on a short visit to Monticello, but a thought coming into my head which may be useful to your son who is carrying the mammoth to Europe, I take time to hint it to you. My knowledge of the scene he will be on enables me to suggest what might not occur to him a stranger. When in a great city, he will find persons of every degree of wealth. To jumble these all into a room together I know from experience is very painful to the decent part of them, who would be glad to see a thing often, and would not regard paying every time, but that they revolt at being next with pickpockets, chimney sweeps &c. Set three different divisions of the day at three different prices, selecting for the highest when the *beau monde* can most conveniently attend; the 2d price when merchants and respectable citizens have most leisure, and the residue for the lower description. A few attending at the highest price will countervail many of the lowest, and be more agreeable to themselves and to him. I hope and believe you will make a fortune by the exhibition of that one, and that when tired of showing it you may sell it there for another fortune. Nobody wishes it more sincerely than I do. Accept my assurances of this and of my great esteem.